[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALA (PANNONI): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, please continue zero hour to-day, so that we may be able to speak on the notice given by us, otherwise backlog would continue to pile up.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will be allowed to accumulate, we shall allow all tomorrow, please worry not.

14.23 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of U.P. for providing adequate relief to the people affected by floods in Khurja Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (KHURJA): Sir, in my parliamentary constituency, problem of serious flood situation due to the Yamuna river in Dadri, Sikandrabad and Jewar assembly constituencies still persists. Not only that, even appropriate relief measures are not being taken nor required commodities being made available to the affected families. Now the situation has come to a point where in various villages falling in the above mentioned assembly constituencies, water logging has started on a big scale. I have visited the flood affected areas during the last few days and I have requested the officials of the irrigation department to take all possible steps for solving the grave problem being faced by the people in those areas. But the trouble is that senior officials of the irrigation department are claiming that the situation is under control and everything is alright, whereas the reality is just the opposite of it.

Hence, I request the Central Govt. to provide adequate financial help to the U.P. Govt. for arranging relief measures and necessary commodities for the flood affected people in villages in Dadri, Sikandrabad and Jewar assembly constituencies in my Khurja Parliamentary constituency suffering due to heavy floods in the Yamuna river, and thereafter to provide appropriate compensation to the flood affected families, and also to direct that stern action should be taken immediately against the officials of the irrigation department, who are working carelessly and sluggishly without paying due attention to the enormity and bigness of the problem faced by the people there.

[English]

(ii) Need for repair of Dam on Ganga between Kajarganj and Nardoli in Etah district, U.P.

[Translation]

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH 'SHAKYA' (ETAH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the irrigation minister to an urgent matter of public importance. I have been elected to this House from the Etah Parliamentary constituency. The Ganga river flows on the eastern side of my constituency, as a result of which many villages are adversely affected every year on account of floods in the river Ganga. A dam was constructed by the Govt. to check flood water, from Kajarganj to Nardoli, which has broken down at some places during the years causing heavy loss of life and property during the last two years.

I request the Hon. Minister to ensure that the dam is repaired and made fit as it was before, so that it may discharge its function properly.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (VIDISHA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here. So, he should reply, as the flood situation is serious.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is the Agriculture Minister prepared to say something. He may say in one minute.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (OTHER THAN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRY DEPARTMENT) SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the issue raised by the Hon. Minister in regard to flood situation and the problems created by it has engaged our attention also and I have talked about it to the Governor's advisor Shri Jain. U.P. Govt. has got the money of the calamity Relief Fund and with it the Govt. is managing the problem. If they required more money, they may send a memorandum to us. On receipt of such a Memorandum we shall send our Central team there, on that basis we shall act according to the report of that team for supplying more aid.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the floods are furious. It will be in the fitness of things if Bihar is also covered in the reply.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the floods affect all, but 377 shall cover all, does it happen so?

[English]

(iii) Need for Effective Steps to Eradicate Poverty in Kalahandi-Bolangir area in Orissa.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA (PURI): Sir, I wish to invite the attention of this august House to the poverty-stricken and starvation-ridden tribal pockets in Kalahandi-Bolangir-Korgput areas of Orissa. Poverty is so deep-rooted there, that every year, a number of starvation deaths are reported from this area. For months together, the people have no foodgrains to eat, and they have to depend on crushed mango seeds.

A special programme for accelerated development of these identified specially backward areas costing around Rs. 4557.30 crore was laid down, at the instance of the